

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The deadline to submit entries for the 27th annual Congressional Art Competition is April 28. Entries must be delivered to Congressman Sam Farr's Salinas or Santa Cruz District offices. A reception and judging will take place on May 12 in Watsonville.

High school students living in the 17th Congressional District may compete. Artwork must be original, two-dimensional and when framed cannot be larger than 30 inches x 30 inches x 4 inches. Acceptable categories include collage, computer-generated art, drawings, mixed media, paintings, photography and prints.

The first place winner will receive three roundtrip tickets to Washington, D.C. from Southwest Airlines, and the Savannah College of Art and Design will provide a \$5,000 renewable scholarship. A reception for winners will be held in Washington on June 25 and the student's artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year.

The contest is held in communities across the country and is the brainchild of the Congressional Arts Caucus, of which Rep. Farr is a member.

"Art is such an important part of a child's education," Rep. Farr said. "One of the foundations of scientific discovery is artistic creativity. We must support art programs for our children, both for the wonderful work they create and for the benefits that come from a well-rounded education."

The Central Coast's contest is organized by Bertha Muñoz, a congressional aide in Rep. Farr's Salinas office. For further information on the program, call Muñoz at 831-424-2229. Students must also include a copy of the student release form available on Rep. Farr's Web site at www.farr.house.gov

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